



Ethnic Communities

Our country is richer for its many different ethnicities, cultures and faiths.

Whether someone is a first generation Kiwi who has recently arrived, or has a family who have lived in New Zealand for several generations, National celebrates the valuable contribution ethnic communities make to our economic, cultural and social life.

New Zealand attracts some of the best and brightest talent from across the globe. This has made our nation a thriving multicultural society where hundreds of different ethnicities work and live together. National backs the aspiration and ambition of those who come here in pursuit of a better life.

We want to ensure everyone can participate in the workforce and reach their full potential. National welcomes the skills, connections and new perspectives people from different cultures bring to our businesses and communities. We will work alongside NGOs and businesses to ensure those who are new to New Zealand are provided with the tools to harness their skills and experience.

National is proud of the ethnic diversity in our caucus. Many of our MPs have strong connections and affiliations with ethnic communities and organisations. We will continue to engage and listen to ethnic leaders as it is vital we understand the issues they face and how we can maximise the opportunities that come from a multicultural New Zealand.

Policy highlights

National will:

- Ensure ethnic communities are part of our plan to create jobs and get the economy back on track.
- Ensure ethnic communities have official channels to communicate with Government and official agencies are responsive to the growing number of

cultures, backgrounds and languages present in New Zealand.

- Enhance safeguards to protect migrants against exploitation and continue initiatives which proactively ensure the justice system accounts for our ethnic diversity.

Economic participation

Kiwis in our ethnic communities have a high rate of business ownership. National recognises the disruption that the pandemic has caused for business. We have announced a number of policies to support business owners through the economic disruption caused by the pandemic as part of our plan to get New Zealand's economy back on track. We need to utilise all of our resources, including the advantages that come from diversity, to have the strongest possible economic recovery. Our diversity is an important factor in our plan to create more jobs and generate long-term economic growth.

National will:

- Re-establish the Ethnic People in Commerce Conference Programme (EPIC) which brings together business leaders and entrepreneurs.
- Implement JobStart, our policy that will see businesses who hire a new staff member receive a \$10,000 cash payment, incentivising up to 50,000 new jobs.
- Implement BusinessStart, our policy that will enable those who have recently been made unemployed to access up to \$30,000 to start a new business and receive mentoring and advice to get it off the ground.

Embracing diversity in Aoteroa

It is critical for Government to hear directly about the issues confronting ethnic communities. It is also important official information is available to those new to New



Zealand in a range of languages. We want to keep building an open and inclusive nation. National believes having official channels and forums to hear the views of different ethnic communities is an important part of building a thriving multicultural nation.

National will:

- Commit to six-monthly Ministerial Forums at Parliament with leaders from our ethnic, religious and cultural sectors to develop a better understanding of the key issues facing our diverse population.
- Increase the range of language options Government information is presented in so more people can access important information about Government services.
- Review the work programme of the Human Rights Commission and the Office of Ethnic Communities to ensure the best possible engagement of our ethnic communities is occurring across Government.

- Ensure MBIE has adequate enforcement powers to protect our migrant and temporary visa holders, including international students, from exploitation.

Protecting New Zealanders

National is proudly the party of law and order. We want to ensure New Zealand is a safe place to live, work and raise a family in. In Government we invested in extra police and more ethnic liaison officers to support our ethnic communities. We acknowledge the value of our law enforcement and justice system engaging with ethnic communities. National also recognises that sometimes those who are new to New Zealand can be taken advantage of and this requires safeguards in our workplace and immigration systems.

National will:

- Ensure police have adequate ethnic liaison officers to match the growth in our ethnic populations.
- Support culture-specific family violence programmes to ensure all migrants feel safe and supported.
- Encourage the appointment of more ethnically diverse and multilingual Justices of the Peace.